**Desert Animals And Plants**

* Caracal-Has big ears to hear its prey and is built like the lynx so it has speed to catch its food. Can be found in dens. The caracal usually bears 2-5 kittens a litter. The caracal is a K-strategist because it has a small litter and keeps their young close for a long time until they are old enough to be on their own.
* Spotted Hyena – They travel in packs some are alone they are mostly scavengers but some large portions of their diet are live zebras and gazelle so they need speed. They live in dens and travel in packs. The hyenas usually have 3-4 per litter but it can vary.
* Fennec Fox – They have large ears to keep them cool in the hot desert. The Fennec Fox will dig u borrow underground and stay there during the hottest part of the day. Have 2-5 in a litter.
* Pronghorn – Born as twins and after birth to avoid detection the fawns have no odor and are usually motionless. The parents stay and raise the young which makes them k-strategists. The pronghorn doesn’t really have a shelter for they are in constant motion but they have beds that they make in the grassy parts of the desert.
* Greater Roadrunner – This animal has speed not just for show but it also helps them catch their food such as insects and fast lizards and smaller mammals but will eat vegetation available to them as well. The shelter for a Roadrunner is a nest built a few feet above the ground in a bush. They usually have 2-5 eggs and both parents incubate until hatched. The roadrunner is a K-strategist for they raise their young and both parents take care of the young.
* Sidewinder Rattlesnake – The sidewinder is a sandy color usually to help camouflage it from predators. It has scales over its eyes to possibly protect its eyes from the sun. They eat lizards and small mammals. Can usually be found in the desert sand or in animal burrows. It usually lays 18 eggs. The sidewinder is a r-strategist because they lay many eggs to ensure that at least some survive because they don’t raise them closely.
* Cactus Wren – They eat small insects and fruit. Their beaks are long and slightly curved making it easy to turn over objects while scavenging. Lies between 3-6 eggs both parents assist in the nest and hatching. They build their nests inside of cacti.
* Saguaro Cactus – Live for around 200 years and reach about 30 feet in height. Its food source is the water it gets. It’s also a food and home for insects and small birds.
* Giant Desert Centipede – Use structures called gnathosomes to inject venom into prey when they aren’t eating decomposing plant and animal. Lives under stones and dead trees and cacti. The centipede is a R-strategist because they lay eggs and then the bury them and leave them to hatch.

**Symbiosis in the Desert Biome**

* Mutualism – The birds eat fruit from the cacti and disperse its seeds across the land providing more plants and food for the birds and making the cacti grow more.
* Commensalism – The Saguaro Cactus provides a home for birds that builds nests and since there are few trees in the desert the cactus acts as a good home for it also protects against predators with its long stickers and the cactus isn’t bothered by the bird.
* Paratism – The praying mantis lays its eggs and then the wasp lays its larvae in the mantis’s eggs and when the larvae hatch the wasps eat the mantis.